

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. PRICE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PRICE of Georgia addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### CONGRATULATING THE MATH AND SCIENCE ACADEMY OF SOUTH TEXAS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge my colleagues to join me today in congratulating the staff, the administration, students and families of the Math and Science Academy of South Texas Independent School District in my hometown of Mercedes, Texas, on being named one of Newsweek magazine's Best High Schools in America for 2005.

Our academy ranked 40th out of 100 U.S. high schools. A quality, comprehensive and challenging education is the most valuable gift we can give to our children. For the second time in 2 years, the Math and Science Academy of South Texas has received this prestigious recognition, and it solidifies the school's standing as a model of excellence and as an exemplary institution. The teachers and administrators are truly committed to educating and encouraging our future leaders.

As the country continues to move forward into the 21st century, the need for mathematicians, scientists, engineers, and the leaders of tomorrow continues to be of the utmost importance.

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A high school diploma is the first step to becoming a successful contributor to our society.

The program of study at the academy ensures that students succeed and, more importantly, lays the foundation for students to learn the fundamentals that will lead to successful lives and careers. It is truly an exceptional institution.

Last fall, I joined the South Texas ISD community to celebrate the district's 40th anniversary. I would like to congratulate superintendent Marla Guerra, as well as the members of the school board of trustees, the faculty, the students, parents and alumni on 40 years of achievement. This school district demonstrates a regional commitment to excellence. The recognition that the Math and Science Academy has received is just one of many acco-

lades earned by the South Texas ISD school district.

My involvement in establishing the magnet high school system for the South Texas ISD is one of my proudest achievements. Over 20 years ago, as a member of the Texas State Board of Education, I led a delegation from south Texas to Houston to visit that city's highly regarded magnet schools. We knew that we wanted that caliber of opportunity for our students. However, we were told that such a program could not work in south Texas. We were told that we did not have the financial resources and that we could not find the students, but we did not believe the nay-sayers. We knew it could be done.

Today, the Math and Science Academy, with a student population that is almost 80 percent Hispanic and over 50 percent eligible for free or reduced price lunch, is among the most elite high schools in the Nation. Every day it brings us closer to realizing the vast potential of our community. It shows us what is possible when we invest in our children and demand the very best.

I ask all my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Math and Science Academy of south Texas on a job well done.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JINDAL). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MCHENRY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### THE SOCIAL INSECURITY SYSTEM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. MCDERMOTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday in the interest of protecting Members of Congress, journalists and the general public, officers of the Capitol Police advised everyone to run for their lives, and we did.

Today, I wish that a Capitol Police officer would have been on hand at the Committee on Ways and Means hearing to shout the same warning.

Run for your lives is the very best nonpartisan advice that anyone can give the American people over the President's plan to create a private insecurity social system.

The President wants the American people to cut Social Security benefits. His proposal would devastate the program, break the promise and destroy

the trust made between the government and the American people.

The President wants the American people to accept his word that privatizing Social Security is in the best interests of Main Street and not Wall Street.

The President, amid much bravado, said his plan is on the table and his plan stays on the table, take it or take it. Since the President will not take private insecurity off the table, let us look at what else the President put on the table with his plan.

It is the only guaranteed outcome of the President's plan: senior citizens retiring into poverty. We need only look back in history and revisit the dark and stark reality of our own past.

Americans by the thousands retired into poverty before Social Security was created by President Franklin Roosevelt. They retired into poverty because there was no way to protect them. There was no security, and that is exactly what the President wants again.

The President says he does not read newspapers. How about American history? Can someone in the White House please get him an American history book?

It did not work. He ought to know that. Americans who have worked a lifetime were forced to live in poverty because there was no Social Security. Millions of seniors did not have the money for food, clothing or shelter.

You want to revisit America in 1932? My mother still is alive, thank God, and she would be the first to tell you that 1932 was not good. It was economically and humanitarially a disaster for America. Millions could not afford to eat. Millions had no home to call their own. Americans did not have a lifeline, much less a safety net. It was a dark and horrifying period of American history.

Why in the world does the President continue ignoring history? He proposes a plan; no, the President demands a private insecurity social system. He says he will listen to any idea as long as it is his.

So, today, the President's water is carried by the distinguished but misinformed chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means. I said it before and I say it again: The President's plan for a private insecurity social system is dead as disco. Nobody goes to discos anymore. It does not work. It does not even have those fancy twirling disco lights on the dance floor. The President's plan does not offer real benefits. It offers real cuts.

The President's plan reflects America in 1932, a place with little security and a lot of greed, a place at a time when Americans suffered and lost hope until a great leader renewed a trust with the American people.

A President, in the worst of times, created Social Security to provide every retired American with economic security, guaranteed, something this President wants to destroy.